



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

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Pictured above, left to right: 2017 PA Honey Queen Kayla Fusselman, 2016 PA Honey Queen Sarah McTish and 2017 PA Honey Princess Samantha Stouffer. The photo was taken at the PSBA Annual Banquet, held Friday, November 11th, at Days Inn, State College.

Photos by Rachel Bryson



Retiring PSBA officers Charlie Vorisek and Yvonne Crimbring received a plaque in honor of their years of service to the association. The plaques were presented to them at the 2016 Annual Banquet.

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Thank you...

It has been an honor and opportunity of a lifetime to serve the PA State Beekeepers Association. Ours is one of the oldest beekeeping associations in the nation. The collaboration between PSBA, PA Dept. of Agriculture and Penn State University was established very early. This working relationship has helped to create a nationally respected organization. As I started my presidency, one of the first inquiries was from another state’s beekeeper association wanting to know how we were able to bring together the Department of Agriculture and Penn State. I couldn’t answer that question. It was done well before my time. This continued collaboration is a tribute of our early leaders.

Four years ago, I recognized that this association needs to serve it’s largest demographic, the independent hobby beekeeper. Former PA Honey Queen, Rachel Bryson was working on her Master’s degree and collected very useful data in a PSBA survey. To keep this largest segment included, the association needed to communicate and address issues they value. A social media presence was created for both the PA Honey Queen and PSBA. Along with BeeHelp on the website, PSBA has reached a larger audience than ever before.

My term began while the nasty, expensive, time-consuming legal battle that occurred in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County was happening. It ended in a stalemate. I felt this should never happen again. We slowly picked away at being pro-active in the last four years.

First, we reestablished the Apiary Advisory Board. This is the face-to-face communication line with the PA Dept. of Agriculture from the Apiary Department to the Secretary of Agriculture. A sign of our positive relationship with the PA Dept. of Agriculture happened this October when the Apiary Advisory Board, which includes PSU researchers, was able to kindly gain leadership in drafting the PA Pollinator Protection Plan. Other state’s beekeepers have run into a wall or have had little voice in their state plans.

The Beekeeper Compliance Agreement was replaced with the Best Management Practices, focusing on European rather than Africanized honey bees, in 2013. The looser rules were modeled after states that had created legislation that protected beekeeping from lawsuit. Creating laws and amendments are long and uncertain. Creating a ‘voluntary’ document is faster and creates a working model immediately. I recall leaving the PDA parking lot with past president, Jim Bobb. He wanted to know how we did that in 6 months. When he worked with the Compliance Agreement, it took a year and a half. Later that year, Steve Repasky used that BMP document to help guide

bee-friendly zoning in townships around the Pittsburgh area.

As a suggestion in 2014, Don Shump and I attended the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) convention in Hershey. There, we presented a workshop showing how it’s possible to keep bees in urban and suburban areas without nuisance issues. PSBA has attended PSATS for 3 years. We are able to offer solutions and information directly to those in local government. We got ahead of pending problems and influence people in the position of writing local ordinances. To borrow a phrase, ‘if you’re not at the table, you just might be on the menu’.

"I want to assure every member, PSBA is constantly working behind the scenes."

PSBA was struggling to establish a program for improved survivor genetics. I recognized Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich were forging ahead on their own and asked them to chair that project. They stepped up to the challenge and have joined PSBA with HHBBC (Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Co-operative). With ongoing studies between Purdue University and Penn State, this has made some exciting genetics available to Pennsylvania. This is a long-term commitment that could someday be an important piece of the puzzle with varroa mite control.

Both EAS and ABF came to Pennsylvania during my term. We had a chance to show-off at the PA Farm Show. And it didn’t hurt that the Secretary of Agriculture was a country neighbor and friend from my county. This offered some trusted conversation and helped establish a minimum of one bee inspector for each agricultural region in the state.

I want to assure every member, PSBA is constantly working behind the scenes. Sometimes we need to stop and toot our horn. We toot cautiously because we know that each little victory will be followed with another challenge. Some of these challenges pop up quickly with little notice. We won a legal challenge in Millcreek Township, Erie County. This September, I represented the PSBA at a hearing in Kittanning. The property owner, with a single beehive, received a citation in violation of a tall grass ordinance. The “high grass” was a Master Gardener certified pollinator garden. We won. The importance of these small battles cannot be under estimated.

A year ago, I threw out the idea of recognizing communities with bee-friendly practices. Some members embraced the idea and created a completely new program for PSBA. At the annual banquet this year, we honored the borough of Bellefonte with the first Bee Friendly PA award. Very well done. We are being pro-active.

These are just a few examples of many issues that come before your president and board of directors, not to mention

(Continued on Page 5)

Thank You (Continued from Page 3)

workings within the association. Our membership is gifted with professionals in many occupations that can benefit our voluntary association. The best asset you can offer is your help on one of the several committees.

I want to thank Yvonne for guiding me when needed and being such a gracious person to work with. I'm happy that she can step away on her terms, time, and help the transition happen smoothly. The duties of Secretary- Treasurer, Membership chair and Newsletter editor are often not recognized until there are some bumps in the road.

I want to thank my wife, Cathy. It's important to have support and a sounding board. Being president filled more time than I ever conceived. Maybe that's because I never wanted to let down the membership. Every correspondence should be timely and professional because it is a reflection of the organization.

There are some exciting and important opportunities and issues ahead. Stay tuned.

Thank you for the support, commitment and expertise you have offered me over the past four years. I'll be stepping aside into committee roles.

Charlie Vorisek,
2012-2016 President PSBA



Pictured on the left, Charlie Vorisek accepts the 2016 "Beekeeper of the Year" Award presented by Stu Mathias at the Annual Conference held in State College.

Photo by Rachel Bryson

Presenting 2017 PSBA's Officers



(Left to right) 1st Vice President, Steve Finke; President, Steve Repasky; 2nd Vice President, Mark Gingrich and Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Tatro

Photo by Ken Hoover

Farm Show...

The 101st Farm Show is closing in quickly. This event is the biggest outreach event for PSBA, with 3 points of contact within the show. The 2017 PA Farm Show will be January 7-14, 2017. You can see all the rules and exhibits at <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us/files/Department22Apiary.pdf> Please read the rules, as some are adjusted each year.

Registration begins at <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us> Under 'Exhibitors'; go to "CLICK HERE TO REGISTER", then "Sign In".

If your club/association would like to do a County Exhibit, we will continue to accept entries beyond the deadline. We have 5 spaces to fill. Every entry receives a premium. Top premium is \$500, sponsored by Dutch Gold Honey. This is a great way to showcase your club.

NEW: An entry fee of \$1 per OPEN SHOW entry will be charged for each entry registered by 12/15/16. A n entry fee of \$2 per OPEN SHOW entry will be charged for each entry registered after 12/15/16.

NEW: Jams, Jellies and Spreads has been added.
BREAKING! Due to software security concerns, NO Social Security numbers will be taken on-line at registration. All premiums WILL BE paid. Those above a determined dollar value will need to provide their social security number when the Farm Show contacts premium winners, after the show.

Exhibits will be accepted on Thursday, Jan. 5th, 2017.

Entries begin at 9:00AM and will close at 6:00PM

Exhibits MAY NOT be removed before 5:00

the final Saturday.

For any questions, contact Charlie Vorisek at vbeefarm@windstream.net

Nature Notes

Snow geese nest in the arctic and winter across the mid-latitudes of the U.S. As high flocks head south, migrating snow geese make a higher-pitched, almost screechy call, different from Canada geese.



Snow Geese
(Photo by
GILLES
GONTHIER /
WIKIMEDIA
COMMONS)

Honey bees store honey in wax combs to fuel the colony during cold weather. Bees pack together in a soccer-ball size cluster. The bees in the center eat honey and warm the whole cluster enough to keep it from freezing. Bees rotate positions, so all of them get to feed and generate heat.

The whole cluster feeds its way upward on the combs. Colonies that reach the top of the combs before flowers bloom in late winter/early spring will starve and die unless they are fed.

Wise beekeepers set up colonies in autumn so they can see whether the clusters have reached the tops of the frames. This can easily be done by setting an empty hive body on top above the combs and below the inner and outer covers. Lifting off the outer cover and sliding the inner cover to the side, lets the beekeeper see the tops of the frames.

Bees eat honey and produce energy (and heat), carbon dioxide, and water. Warm water vapor rises and, if it touches something cold, condenses into liquid water. Water that drips back onto the cluster may disrupt and kill the colony. Allowing air to flow up through the colony and out near the top lets the water vapor out. Honey bees with an adequate food supply on combs of honey in a ventilated hive do not freeze.

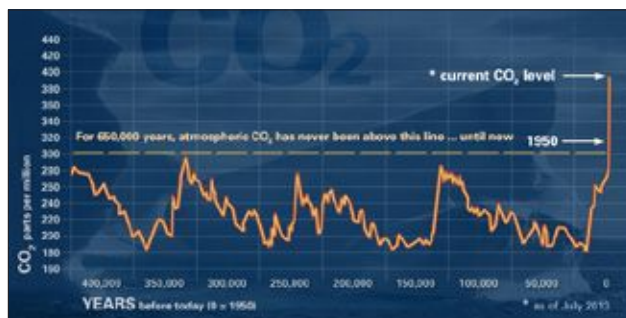
Our native **witch-hazel** is blooming now with spidery yellow flowers along the branches of a spidery shrub.



Witch-hazel
Flowers Photo:
Jason Hollinger via
Creative Common

In the days before modern medicine, when all our medicines fit in a metal cabinet over a sink, a glass bottle, flat on front and back, of **Dickinson's Witch Hazel** was standard equipment. The bottle held a clear astringent liniment to be rubbed on the skin for a variety of ailments. Native Americans taught early immigrants about witch-hazel. Dickinson's Witch Hazel liniment has been offered for sale since the middle 1800s.

While our summer **robins** may fly south, Pennsylvania hosts robins from the north all winter. They gather in flocks to feed on fruits and berries often in brushy tangles on sunny hillsides. Their digestion is able to switch from a meat (worm and insect) diet to a vegetable diet.



Many of us are familiar with this graph, which shows the amount of **carbon dioxide** in our atmosphere over time. The startling increase in carbon dioxide coincides with the **Industrial Revolution** when Europeans began to burn coal to power factories, something which has only happened once in the past half million years. We learned about ancient carbon dioxide levels by examining layers of ice collected from **cores drilled in ice sheets** on Greenland and Antarctica.

Carbon dioxide in our atmosphere acts as **insulation**, letting light from the Sun in but slowing the radiation of heat back out into space. Sunlight is **absorbed** by the Earth and radiated back upward as **heat**. We feel this whenever we walk across a paved parking lot in summer: light downward, heat upward. Earth's temperature is slowly rising.

This might be OK except for those ice sheets. We are setting our arctic and antarctic ice boxes to **"Defrost"**. The water from this defrost goes, not into a pan and down the sink drain, but into the oceans. Our oceans are rising.

Orion with his belt of three bright stars is in the evening sky. Asked to name a constellation, most people say "The Big Dipper". Asked for a constellation they can find in the sky, most people say "Orion". Left of Orion and by itself is bright **Capella**. **Venus** is the evening "star". Early risers are treated to bright **Jupiter** high in the southeast.

Tim Sterrett

Subscription Rates
(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

American Bee Journal	Bee Culture
1 year \$23.80	1 year \$25.00
2 years 45.05	2 years 48.00
3 years 63.75	3 years 69.00

(Regular Rates)

The Small Beekeeper's Journal
\$18.00
(Regular Rate)

**Please send 6 weeks before subscription runs out
as we send them in once a month.**

PSBA Advertising Rates

1 Month	3 Months
Full Page \$33.00	Full Page \$ 50.00
1/2 Page 22.00	1/2 Page 35.00
1/4 Page 19.00	1/4 Page 25.00
1/8 Page 15.00	1/8 Page 19.00
6 Months	One Year
Full Page \$85.00	Full Page \$ 160.00
1/2 Page 50.00	1/2 Page 85.00
1/4 Page 33.00	1/4 Page 60.00
1/8 Page 22.00	1/8 Page 36.00

President: Steve Repasky (412) 445-7872
3109 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226
srepasky@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Steve Finke (610) 737-7676
25 Dunkels Church RD, Kutztown, PA 19530
steve@meadowviewbees.com

2nd Vice President: Mark Gingrich (717) 292-1249
7070 Bull Street, Dover, PA 17315
mgingrich@gingrichapiaries.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Tatro (412) 508-0820
110 Holly Hill Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071
psbasecretary@gmail.com

Newsletter Correspondence

Please send correspondence and advertising for the PSBA's newsletter, "The Pennsylvania Beekeeper", to **Penelope Malish**, 1160 West Valley Hill Road, Malvern, PA 19355, phone: 610-660-9044 Ext. 1, email: penelope@malishpagonis.com

In order to reflect the interests of all facets of Pennsylvania beekeeping, articles submitted for publication may on occasion express ideas contrary to the philosophy of the P.S.B.A. or a majority of its members.

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**Application for New and Renewal Membership
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association**

\$1.00 Junior Membership (under 17) annual dues
 \$20.00 annual dues \$25.00 family dues \$200.00 Lifetime Membership
 I understand the dues entitle me to the Newsletter and all other benefits of membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____ County _____

New

Renew

**Make checks payable to: PA State Beekeepers Association
Send to: Bob Tatro, 110 Holly Hill Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071**

Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the January issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is December 27th.**

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Sunday, December 11, 6:00 p.m. at Ann and Charlie Breinig's Home Holiday Potluck Party. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcopabees.org for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Monday, December 12, 6:00 p.m. at the Abington Community Library, Clarks Summit. December Party. To RSVP or for additional information, contact Renee Czubowicz, 570-335-3091 or Dr. Maggie Miller, 570-877-3064 or visit the club's Facebook page or website:

Lackawanabackyardbeekeepers.blogspot.com or email lackawannabackyardbeekeepers@gmail.com.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, January 4, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com for more information.

Country Barn Farm Bee Club

Thursday, January 5, 6:00 p.m. at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library, Pittsburgh. For further information, contact joe@countrybarnfarm.com.

Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 7-14, 2017 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Please consider volunteering your time to help the PSBA in the Food Court booth, Marketplace or the Learning Center. Contact Aaron Fisher by email aaron@fisherbeefarm.com or phone 717-242-4373 for additional information.

North American Beekeeping Conference

January 10-14, at the San Luis Resort & Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, TX. This is a joint conference of the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council. Visit the ABF website: abfnet.org for additional information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, January 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County 4-H Center, Skippack. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcopabees.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, January 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Student Center, Penn State, York. David Papke will describe what you can expect to see when you first look into your hives late winter, and possible management options. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details or contact Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

Beginner Beekeeping Course

Saturday, January 28, at the Greensburg Masonic Lodge. Sponsored by Westmoreland County Beekeepers Association. For further information, contact Diane Resnick at 412-817-5615 or Jerry Dorsey at 724-925-7765.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com for more information.

Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

Friday and Saturday, February 17 & 18, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton, Monroeville, PA. Speakers include: Dr. Roger Hoopingarner, Elizabeth (Izzy) Hill and Doug Oster. Break-out sessions and a special Beginning Beekeeping workshop will be offered on Saturday 8-4 p.m. Seminar registration is \$55; Beginner Beekeeping cost is \$75/ Registration opens the beginning of December 2016 at Penn State Extension, Beaver website: <http://extension.psu.edu/beaver> call 724-774-3003.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County 4-H Center, Skippack. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcopabees.org for more information.

Chester County Beekeepers' Annual Conference

Saturday, March 11 at the West Chester University, West Chester. Speakers include Dr. Dewey Caron, author of Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping; Phil Craft, columnist for Bee Culture Magazine; Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University Dept. of Entomology; and Master Beekeeper Landi Simone, owner and operator of Gooserock Farm. Lunch will be provided. For registration and details, go to <http://www.ChescoBees.org>.

Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS)

July 31-August 4 at the University of Delaware, Clayton Hall Conference Center, Newark. For additional information, visit the EAS website: easternapiculture.org.



All PA Bee Associations

Please forward updated 2017 information, such as officers, contact information, beekeeping seminars and meeting schedules to PSBA's Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Tatro psbasecretary@gmail.com and to Ken Hoover webmaster@pastatebeekeepers.org for the PSBA website. We would like to have this updated information as numerous requests for local associations concerning swarm removal, new beekeeper mentors, classes, etc are taken by the PSBA officers and through PSBA's website. Your association meetings and seminars will not be included in the PSBA's newsletter or website unless you submit that information to us at least 6 weeks in advance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Wishing You A
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!

Jeremy's Corner

Toxic Soup

On October 12, I underwent robotic laproscopic sigmoidectomy surgery as the result of increasing bouts of diverticulitis, which means, in effect, removing part of the lower colon.

After 48 hours of pain and discomfort, I became more aware of the regimen of pills I was being given. One to prevent infection; another to promote bowel movement; another to stabilize heart rate; potassium because of a .2 deficiency in one of the blood samples; another to stabilize pain, and so on. By the third evening, my blood pressure had risen to a systolic reading in excess of 180.

My wife, Mary, is a retired family physician. She was at my side for the full 78 hours of the hospitalization, not least as my advocate. Each time one of these medicines was introduced orally or by IV she invariably enquired as to the thinking behind it and their purpose, sometimes to the irritation of the nurses. One quipped "You cannot be both a visitor and a doctor," and instead of replying "Yes I can!" Mary spent time building a relationship of trust by asking him questions about his life; we were stuck with him whether we liked it or not, and needed him on our side. I can empathize with the position many nurses find themselves in, caught between the orders of a resident (who may not have much training in internal medicine) and the often emotional demands of family members.

Mary and I had a conversation early on the morning of day 4 and agreed that, although each medicine had worth in its own right, a probable cause of the increased blood pressure was the synergy between them, in which case the obvious solution was to go back to the medicine that I take daily and which we know works for me.

The overall result? By 9:00 am, three hours without the new meds, the blood pressure level had dropped significantly and my discharge was signed.

Soon after getting home I realized that I was recovering from a multilevel traumatic experience. I felt I had a fever but the thermometer denied it; my writing was filled with typographical errors which suggested a fine motor dysfunction; there was a sensitivity to bright lights; my dreams were disturbing and vivid between which my mind at night was over-active; and my mouth was filled with a chemical after-taste which not even Manuka honey could over-ride. It felt more than only a physical invasion of my body; I felt like I was swimming in a toxic soup.

So, what are the lessons of this and how do they relate to honey bees?

First is the importance of a support system. The bees have it and so did I, whether it was the e-mails, the visits and calls, the empathy of the nurses and their assistants or the skills of the doctors. We know that one honey bee cannot exist for more than 24 hours in isolation; I could not have

survived this successfully alone.

Secondly, Mary was an informed advocate. If she had not been there my guess is that I would have been in the hospital for several more days, who knows with what results. Yet few patients are privileged to have such a champion and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the language and status of the various medical specialists. Presumably the family doctor should be the patient's strong proponent but it is easy to see the practical reasons why that is seldom going to happen.

Thirdly, we know that honey bees are exposed to a multi-chemical environment, some of it created by the beekeeper but much of it is omnipresent in our environment. If there is any merit to the thesis proposed above, then perhaps I got to experience for a short while what the bees encounter every day. If so, it is a miserable existence.

Fourthly, once the option of leaving the hospital was offered, I could not wait to get out of there. Mentally, if not physically, I was gone. Is this what honey bees experience when they abscond from a hive, with every one of them leaving en masse, even though their chances of survival are minimal?

Finally, my step-son suggested that when a patient is the subject of conflicting conversations by medical personnel, often as a side-bar conversation in the presence of the patient, he or she is entitled to say, "I am the center of my world right now, and I need you to focus on me and include me in the conversation."

The length of time that honey bees have been in the United States represents about .00001% of their evolutionary history. Not only is that a drop in the transformative ocean, but my understanding of evolutionary theory is that it occurs when random genetic mutation or gene transfer give rise to heritable differences that become more common or rare in a population, thus enhancing their chances of survival in a changing environment.

When Darwin first described this he imagined it in a relatively pristine environment, like the Galapagos Islands, unaffected by the detritus of mankind. We have not only soiled the environment, but through modern globalization in particular we have exposed species to threats that were inconceivable in 1859 when Darwin published "On the Origin of the Species." We cannot expect the slow, random process of evolution to compensate for, or keep pace with, the dramatic effects of modernization.

The exposure of honey bees to varroa mites introduced directly from Asia in the 1970's is one of many such examples. Some argue that bees are best left alone to conquer this through natural processes. I would suggest that we, as the creators of this conflict, with potentially fatal consequences for the bees, are responsible for the solution and have a moral and ethical obligation to speak up and act on their behalf.

(Continued on Page 13)

Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 11)

We are the only champions the bees have, and we need to be loud and clear in our advocacy. As beekeepers, there are times to see honey bees as the center of our world, in desperate need of our focus and support, rather than abandoning them to a world that is not of their making.

Jeremy Barnes



Yvonne Crimbring Retires From PSBA

After 42 years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association, Yvonne Crimbring has announced her retirement from the association. Yvonne was first introduced to the PSBA by her father-in-law, Robert (Bob) Crimbring, in the 1960's when he was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the association. It was the responsibility of the Secretary/Treasurer to publish "The Pennsylvania Beekeeper" newsletter. In 1966 Bob and wife Betsy decided to start spending their winter months in Florida, and gave up the role as Secretary/Treasurer to Russell Wentz, but kept the role as publisher of the newsletter with Yvonne's help. Russell remained in the position of Secretary/Treasurer and Yvonne continued to help Bob with the newsletter until 1974 when she was nominated and elected as the PSBA Secretary/Treasurer, replacing Russell. Yvonne has sure seen a lot of changes during her 42 years of service.

Back in the 1960s, Bob and Yvonne typed the articles and advertising onto a stencil, Bob using a manual typewriter and Yvonne using a "modern" electric typewriter, then ran the copies off on a mimeograph. For you younger generation out there, the mimeograph was the forerunner to the copier machine. Once the 18 pages were printed, 9 stacks of approximately 500 papers were sorted by hand into complete newsletters. A table was set up in the family living room so, while the several hours of sorting took place, Yvonne could watch TV. After sorting, each newsletter was folded and stapled. The address of each member was then imprinted on the completed newsletter using an addressograph. Growing up we can remember the addressograph being very heavy and you had to "slam" down the big handle so the address would show up on the newsletter. The finished product was then put into boxes and taken to the post office to be mailed.

Here it is, 50 years later and Wow have things changed! When Yvonne took the Secretary-Treasurer position in 1974, to keep track of the members of the association, each member had an index card with their name and address, when annual dues were paid, expiration date all written by hand. If the expiration date passed, Yvonne didn't discard your card, she simply moved your card to a "delinquent file" and reused it if your membership was paid at a later date. Along with writing

on each membership card, Yvonne recorded the information into a notebook as a cross reference of payment. Yvonne still uses this system of recording membership today. Putting out the newsletter was a laborious undertaking and the office looked more like a machine shop with industrious looking machines like the mimeograph, addressograph, electric typewriter and trays of steel plates with the names and addresses.

Now almost 5 decades later there is a Mac computer, copier and Yvonne's card files. Call her old-fashioned, but she prefers to go to a file located at her fingertips than to look up the information on the computer. because she still prefers the card files over electronic databases. Debbie, Yvonne's daughter, continues the family tradition of assisting putting out the newsletter. With Yvonne continuing as editor, Debbie creates the newsletter using Adobe InDesign which makes the "copy and pasting" a whole lot easier. The newsletters are bursting with information for the reader, and if space is available some delicious recipes from The National Honey Board's website are incorporated. One thing time hasn't changed is the challenge of fitting the advertising and articles into 24 pages! With the lease of a copier, printing, sorting and stapling are completed all at once, and over the last few years, Glenn has also assisted by folding, affixing labels and mailing the newsletter. To keep up with the times, Debbie has been entering the membership information into a computer for ease of sorting, pulling statistics and printing address labels.

The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association has had 17 President's during Yvonne's position as Secretary/Treasurer. Being knowledgeable of the PSBA's constitution and by-laws, she has assisted each of the officer transitions by guiding and answering questions. She has also traveled across the state attending most PSBA annual meetings and picnics, not only to "take minutes" during the executive meeting but for the fellowship and friendship with members and their spouses that has developed over the years. In recognition of Yvonne's achievements, she was awarded "Beekeeper of the Year" in 2009, and the years of service to the PSBA was presented a beautiful plaque at this year's Annual Conference held in November.

Yvonne's personal life also saw many changes during her service to the PSBA. She and husband, Glenn, raised three children, Debbie (Morse), Wade, and Betsy (May). She was kept busy raising her family along with helping with the farrow-to-finish hog farm that she and Glenn started in 1980. In 2002 they "retired" as farmers due to Yvonne needing and receiving a kidney transplant. Currently in her free time, she enjoys knitting, reading and spending time with her growing family, which includes 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Debbie (Crimbring) Morse,
Wade Crimbring & Rachel (Morse) VerHow



Photo by Ken Hoover

September Identification Reader

I started beekeeping in the early 80's. I saw an ad in our local paper for a beehive for \$50. I bought that hive plus another one. Didn't know anything about beekeeping but I did get some honey (pre varroa). I joined Beaver Valley Beekeepers and found so many helpful people that taught me a lot about beekeeping. Right now, I have 50 colonies. With help from the many new beekeepers that I mentor, I am able to maintain them. I enjoy mentoring new beekeepers to pass on all the knowledge that was given to me when I first started keeping bees. I also enjoy educating people about honey bees from Pre-K to Senior Citizens, girl and boy scouts and anyone else who is interested to hear about the honey bees.

Jim Fitzroy, Verona, PA



We Need Your Help!

We need your help at the 2017 Farm Show, January 7-14. Volunteers are needed to help at the Honey Booth, located in the Food Court, the Honey Stand, located in the Marketplace along with the Learning Center, located in the Large Exhibit Hall. If you could **give a half-day** or more it would be appreciated.

Interested in working in the Food Court at the PSBA Honey Booth where waffles and honey ice cream are sold? Contact Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231.

Stu Mathias and Aaron Fisher are looking for beekeepers willing to donate or sell honey and/or honey products that will be available for sale at the Honey Stand and the Honey Booth. Please contact Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231 or Aaron Fisher at 717-242-4373, email aaron@fisherbeefarm.com. We only sell Pennsylvania honey and honey products.

If you are interested in volunteering your time at the Honey Stand, located in the Marketplace, please contact Tom Jones at 717-243-0356.

Sign up to **share your knowledge** of the honey bee with the public at the Farm Show. The Apiary section of the Learning Center is located side by side with the butter sculpture in the middle of the large exhibit hall. Again this year, an atrium is being included in the apiary exhibit. People are excited and eager to learn about the trials and tribulations of this efficient pollinator and you can be a part of this by **simply volunteering** a few hours of your time. Contact Stan Poleshuk at 717-433-2830, email: spoleshuk285@comcast.net to volunteer.

Proceeds from the sales at the Honey Booth and Honey Stand supports the PSBA Promotional Fund and is used for the PA Honey Queen program and the promotion of honey throughout the state.

Please contact the persons listed above ASAP to receive your parking pass and name tag.

The annual run is on for Bee Packages & Queens

Orders are now being taken for **April 2** delivery/pickup
(As always, dates are contingent on conditions: weather, bee population)

Quantities are very limited – order soon to get in

NOW is the time to reserve fresh 3lb packages of proven quality bees (choose **Italian** or **Russian**). You get them within **hours** (not days), delivered directly from pickup to a location near you (S/E PA).
Yield and health is much higher than having them shipped.

Certified Inspected Freshest
Beginners welcome – we are happy to help!

For pricing and more info or to reserve your package(s):

Online: <http://chescobees.net/Packages.shtml>

Phone: 215-591-9933

Email: MartinBee@ChesCoBees.net

Martin Billingsley Brookhaven, PA 19015